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- Add.—Address.  
Or.—Original Article.  
C. R.—Case Report.  
B. M.—Bedside Medicine.  
Ed.—Editorial.  
M. T.—Medicine Today.  
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## EDITORIALS

### MORE COMMENTS ON THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS AND THE PROPOSED "OCCUPATIONAL STANDARDS DEPARTMENT" OF CALIFORNIA

*A New Name for the Proposed Composite Board.*—In the December issue of this journal (page 414) were given some excerpts from a preliminary draft of a bill creating the proposed "Occupational Standards Department of California." In a later draft the name of the proposed department has moved up one step in dignity, for at this writing it seemingly is to be dubbed the "Vocational Standards Department," thus providing a compromise title between the licensing boards for "occupations" such as plumbers and the licensing boards for "professions," such as physicians; and which with the licensing boards for "vocations," such as the beauty specialists or cosmetologists, will create the composite or ensemble of licensure groups which are to be placed in this new department.

Mention was made of the fact that the chief of the department was to have the title of "director," and that this director—who might be a layman not coming under the domain of any of the occupational, vocational or professional boards listed in the proposed statute—was to be the executive officer of each of the dozen or more boards now existing and gathered together to form this new

department. Since last month's draft was gotten out we are given to understand that the phraseology of some of the provisions has been further changed, by substituting the word "shall" in place of "may," so increasing the scope of authority conferred or duties imposed upon the department director.

\* \* \*

*Proposed Statute of Much and Special Interest to the Professions of Medicine, Dentistry, and Pharmacy.*—So radical a departure from the methods of licensure and other functions of examining boards which for years have been in vogue for the professions of medicine, dentistry, and pharmacy, was bound to excite interest and study by members of these professions. In the southern end of the state, a series of conferences, which began in the fall of 1927, have been held by representatives of these three professions, with the object in mind that by exchange of opinion on the merits and demerits of provisions in the proposed statute, it might be possible to come to a joint conclusion on desirable modifications. In that way, it was hoped that the joint views of the three professions upon the principles and procedures involved might be presented to those state officials who were sponsoring the proposed measure. The results of these informal deliberations in the South were transmitted to northern colleagues in the three professions, who were likewise making a study of the problem.

Out of this exchange of opinions between members of the professions of medicine, dentistry, and pharmacy in different portions of California, certain conclusions have been gradually reached. Some of the opinions now held and which are here given as the informal, unofficial viewpoints of the colleagues who have been giving special attention to a study of the various issues, may be worthy of being placed in printed form, since they may have a suggestive value for all who are interested in the further consideration of the important principles and issues involved.

\* \* \*

*On What Grounds Could a Composite Board Control Be Legitimately Contended to Be Preferable to Separate Boards for the Professions of Medicine, Dentistry, and Pharmacy?*—There are only two legitimate reasons which would seemingly justify taking away the independent existence, authority and responsibilities of the state examining boards of these professions, and changing the system of such independent entity, as is now existent in nearly all states of the Union, to a method which still must be acknowledged to be somewhat of an experiment.

These two reasons, which might justify such experimentation, could be stated to be: one, that through such composite board supervision greater efficiency could be secured for each of the boards in the proposed department, so that thereby greater and more efficient service might be rendered to the citizens of the state; and two, that because of such consolidation under one depart-